

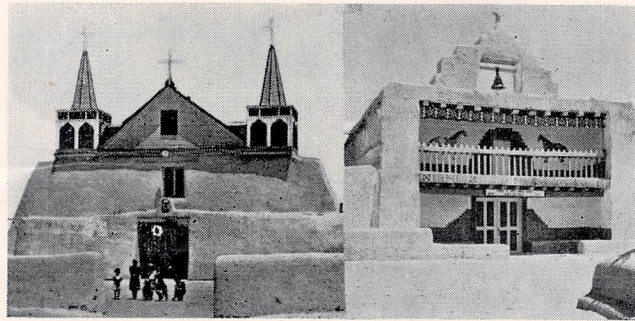
be in time for the world famous Rose Parade and Tournament of Roses. It was one of my dreams. The spirit was willing, but I had to consider the flesh, so after the New Year was met I went home, like a good little boy.

On a whole I've been very happy in San Diego and in no way regret choosing this city. Besides the many old friends living here, I've made many new friends all of whom are wonderful folk. I'm "taking it easy," to assure all my friends who are genuinely concerned about my well being. "Taking it easy" is rather a hard task and it is very worrisome. But... God is Great and His mercy enduring. Please think of me in your prayers.

Good health, happiness, prosperity and happy dancing during this coming year and years.

Pasimatysim

VTYS-FIN



PUEBLO INDIAN CHURCHES

Nearly every Indian Pueblo of New Mexico have most interesting churches combining Indian, pagan, Spanish, and Christian cultures. More picturesque are the interiors. The church to right is of Isleta, one of the largest pueblos of New Mexico and built in 1621. From the roof down the walls are of adobe built in massive Indian style. The church to left is of Santo Domingo, built in 1779 (did you read Christmas Among the Pueblos Indians in Santo Domingo in the last issue?). The scene and action described took place in this church). Note the horse murals.

(Foto—Ralph Ord for Old Trail Agency of Santa Fe)



Much doings were going on during the Thanksgiving week-end. While John Filcich was having his KOLO Festival in San Francisco Michael Herman was holding forth with a successful Kolo festival in New York and Kolo-maniacs from Minneapolis, Boston, Washington and other points far and near congregated to work up a sweat and love it. The Banat Tamburitza Orchestra furnished the music. Poor Mary Ann Herman missed out on all of this, she was sick in bed with a painful kidney ailment. How about staying well? It's more fun. I know!

In Dallas, Texas, they likewise held forth with a very successful folkways week-end and "pilgrims" came from far and near; The Fawkes'es, Russ Acton, the Horace Moores, Neil Handelman and others, all having a rip-roaring good time.

Speaking of Neil Handelman, he is that all-around talented and handsome guy from Brooklyn whom a great number of VILTITES know, well, his company (Pavelle Film Color) promoted his as sales representatives in the wide open spaces of the North-Central States and he with his "dawg Annie" plan to make home in Chicago.

Did any of you get the Christmas letters from the Gelmans in Germany, Buhlers in London, Wills'es in France, and others? Well, reading their annual reports, one would that our American "Innocents Abroad" do nothing else but gallivant all over Europe having one heck of a good time.

Lt. Col. Wayne Wills and "Madame" Clarice Wills have a folk dance group in LaBelle France meeting on Thursdays and known as "Les Danseurs folklorique de Juzennecourt" which is attended by the GI's, French, American civilians, officers—all mixing together, as only folk dancing can do.

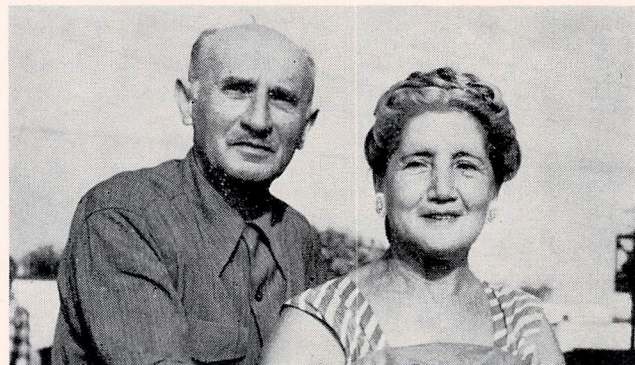
Adolph and Stella (nee Wodman) Kaulakis honeymooned in sunny Florida and were impressed by summer in mid-winter... Jerry Joris and papa Lewis spent their Christmas holidays with Sister Charlotte and family at the White Gates of the House of Chen in Norwalk, Conn.

Evelyn Prewett, Linnea Miles, Roy Hinton, Chuck Prater and Clinton Taylor all from San Diego first attended a New Year welcoming in party in Coronado, then drove the rest of the night to see the Rose Parade, froze for three hours sitting on the curb before it started, saw the parade, went to kolo party sponsored by the Gandy Dancers of Santa Monica and drove back again the following night. Who said folk dancers are crazy, why no! They are NUTS! They claim a million people must have watched the parade and some slept on the street the previous night to be assured of a spot on the sidewalk. The parade was "terrerrrrifique!" and they would repeat going there again (maybe).

Halfdan Baadsbaard, now studying on a scholarship in Switzerland, spent his holiday season with his aunt and uncle in Aarhus, Denmark... Vince Samaska, ex-Ateitis president, flew in to Los Angeles for XMAS to be with his relatives... Millie Libaw from L. A. came to San Diego in between the holidays to present Vyts with two longest and most delicious poppy-seed strudles and to catch a few dances in Balboa Park.

Mr. and Mrs. Ben Sarret, Chicagoans, sure hated to leave California for Chicago where they'll have to spend the whole month of February, and it's a dreary month "Yonder WAY back East." Upon return they plan to settle around Los Angeles to be near both daughters; Charlotte Saunders who lives in Venice and Beatrice Tesch who lives in San Diego. Beatrice, by the way, is expecting the stork come this spring and she's on the look out for him.

Mr. Paul Dunsing will instruct folk dancing at the George Williams College of Chicago, his former Alma Mater. He replaces Miss Alma Hawkins who now holds a position with the University of California in Los Angeles.



MILLIE AND OSCAR LIBAW

One has but to behold Oscar and Millie Libaw to prove to themselves that, indeed, folk dancing keeps a person feeling young and ever happy. Oscar will be 66 during this February 2nd (lange yohren—long life); and Millie, (of course, women don't tell their age) also "lange yohren" to her too, is a proud grandmother. And you should see them dance! Millie led the line during the Yemenite demonstration at the Santa Monica festival. "Oy, hot zi ge-tantst"—(wow! did she dance!) As good, if not better, than any young chick around. And you should see her do the Tarantelas and the Kazatskies and a mean Hungar Csardas! She can out—csardas anyone and still not huff and puff. And Oscar... did you see him do some Sevillanas with castanets and all! We won't even mention the other dances. You'll alwas see them adnce with the young folk, because they are the only ones who can keep up with Oscar and Millie. But besides these feats of their, they are moving spirits in the L. A. area folk dance circles, adding zest, friendship, jollity, and a helping hand. They are the personification of hospitality and kindness.

The above pictures show the Libaws before her leaving for one of her annual trips to Israel. Many more years of happy dancing to both of you.



WALSH-RADOSTITZ

James Vincent (Jimmy) Radostitz, a former member of the Ateitis group and who, two years ago, attended the Stockton (Cal.) Camp, was married to Alice Wa'sh, also aa Chicagoan, on November 21st. The wedding took place at the Little Flower Chapel of Ft. Sill where Jimmy is stationed. His host of riends extend all good wishes for a long and most happy wedded life.

Fixx-Weaver

Along with all Dayton (Ohio) folk dancers, VILTIS, too, expresses felicitations to the newly-weds, Mr. and Mrs. Richard Weaver (she, nee Judy Fixx). They are good dancers, well loved and active in the folk dance circles of that area. Much happiness and congratulations are extended to the Weaver-Fixx-Wiedenheft clan. Happy dancing for yea.

Hektoen-Aalrust

Beauteous Oleane Hektoen and handsome Arne Aalrust, former instructor of the Norwegian Folk Dance Group Heimhug Leikaringen, were married in a candle-light ceremony on Sat., Dec. 5, at the Atonement Lutheran Church. Her host of friends wish the newly-weds heartiest congratulations for a long and happy life together.



Paula Rachel Kermiet

Arrived on Halloween eve at the Lighted Lantern, on top of Denver's Look-Out Mountain. This is a spot well known to many folk and square dancers, for the proud parents are well known dance leaders. Good luck to the clan.

Alexia Joy and Alvera Joan Sarkauskas

Two pretty little gals arrived all at once in the home of John and Sophie Sarkauskas on Oct. 24th in Arlington, Calif. Both are former Chicagoans. John is also known to many Bay Area Californians as he was the official Lith accordionist for Walter Grothe while living there. Ilgiausiu metu.



Miss Harriet Vittum

Death felled the body of a great person but the soul lives on in blessed memory among the many thousands who knew Miss Harriet Vittum and who benefitted from her limitless concern for the underprivileged masses. For 60 years of her 81 she but had one aim... how to improve the conditions of the needy and the homeless, how to ease the burdens of others, how to help the helpless, and how to bring joy to those who would have otherwise had but dreary days of toil and worry. It was a useful life and her greatness was felt in every strata of life; among the rich, the downtrodden, the immigrant, old stock and new stock American and even in the political field. She has done so many things which benefitted so many people that it would take a book to enumerate them all. As the head Resident of Northwestern University Settlement House, in a teeming Polish neighborhood, she has done more for Polish folk culture than any other person in the United States. She introduced the Annual Harvest and Wedding Festivals, Poprawiny, St. John's Day Festivals, and many other Polish events which not only brought back fond memories to many old world folk but enlightenment and recreational enjoyment to those who were altogether unfamiliar with Polish folklore. She instituted night study classes which were the forerunners of our present public night school system. In this alone, just think how many millions gained learning, education and betterment of life. She set up milk stations for children, free summer camps,

she lobbied for woman's suffrage, labor laws for women and children, for playgrounds—the range of her deeds is beyond us little people to fathom where Miss Vittum got all this energy.

Miss Vittum was born into a wealthy family in Canton, Ill., 81 years ago and was only second to Miss Jane Adams, our greatest American Social Worker, next in importance in this field. She sufered a stroke on Sunday, Dec. 13th, 1953, taken to Passavant Hospital, and her great soul departed on Dec. 16th. Her body lay in state at Northwestern Universtity Settlement House Thursday and Friday. Burial took place Saturday afternoon, Dec. 19th, in Canton, Ill.

I myself have been one of those who benefitted in so many countless ways from her greatness. I have known Miss Vittum since the mid-thirties and worked in the Settlement House from 1937. Many wonderful memories have I from my association with that House. It enriched my life and it has given me so much joy. Even now I consider the blessings and privilege it was to work under her wing.

Eternal life is gained by deeds such as hers. Though the corpse returns to dust the memory remains imprinted into eternity as one of the children well-loved by God, who is the father of love and mercy.

Mr. Michael Rachwalski and his wife Helen, who have worked with Miss Vittum for a great number of years, have since 1947, the year of Miss Vittum's retirement, been in charge of the settlement, and worthy heirs are they. The benign spirit of Miss Vittum will bless their works and be present in the House.

Thy place among the blessed is assured, Miss Vittum.

Vyts

A REPORT REGARDING MISS VITNUM'S PASSING

"...All of us who at one time to the N. U. Settlement were deeply sorrowed just before Christmas when we heard about Miss Vittum's death, on Wednesday, Dec. the 16th. She died rather suddenly, and Miss Strong told me that the Friday and Saturday before her death she was still attending meetings. On Sunday she fell ill so she called her doctor who sent her to the hospital where she went into a coma that ended with her death on Wednesday morning. She was 81 years old, so I guess we shouldn't feel too bad, but still it was a shock since she seemed ageless, full of wim and pep always. The wake was held on Tuesday and Friday where the body was on display in the Guild hall. Cn Friday night there was a service and then her body shipped to Canton for burial. I don't think that there was a person who knew her that didn't come to say "Good bye"... mut then, she was a "Grand Old Lady" and everyone wanted to bid her adieu."

Emily Czernek, Chicago



IN DEFENCE OF ALGERD BRAZIS

I can't believe that all, or majority, of the 99% Lithuanian background audience who were at the Orchestra Hall would want to go on record echoing the writer's (Zerēnis') expressed sentiments. True, any group loves to hear his own beloved language and composers and perhaps feels in his heart that they are in a category apart from all others, but to be so carried away as to class all other composers of the great classics, in the mighty universal realm of music which knows no national bounds, as "foreign" is, to put it mildly, bad! One who has earned the place he has in the field of music, when giving a public concert in a place such as Orchestra Hall, would be constrained by the very properties to give a balanced program, and to rejoice that he can.

Pat Parmelee
Los Angeles, Calif.

FOND MEMORIES

I always enjoy reading VILTIS, and am certain to learn something I didn't know before. It reminds me of the years ago, when you held forth in your studio here (Folk Dancer's Nook 1937-1939). I remember the Saturday night parties, where each would be dedicated to some country, he guest artists would dance in native style, and the food served would match in that order. What fun! I'm grateful to you for many interesting memories.

Cynthia James
Chicago, Ill.